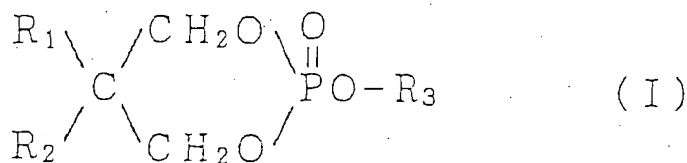


Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 4-8 and 10-14.

Claims 1-3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Applicants' own alleged admission. The Office Action states, based on page 4, lines 19-23 of the Specification, that the formula (I) compound is known and therefore the claims are not novel.

Without agreeing with the statement in the Office Action that Applicants have allegedly admitted claimed compounds to be in the prior art, claims 1-3 and 9 have been amended to recite, in part, a method of imparting flame retardance to at least one resin comprising adding to the resin a compound containing a phosphoric ester represented by the formula (I):



wherein R₁ and R₂, the same or different, are an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 6 and R₃ is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 20.

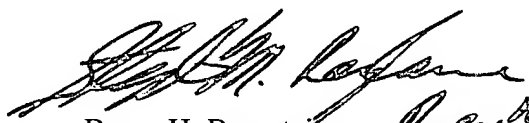
As suggested by the Office Action in paragraph 3, the amended claims are directed to a method of using the composition containing formular (I) as a flame retardant.

Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, including the amended claims 1-3 and 9 and all other claims for which allowable subject matter were indicated, should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number below.

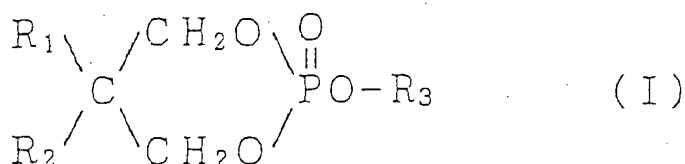
Respectfully submitted.
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Appendix A. Marked-up copy of the claim amendment.

1. (Amended) A method of imparting flame [retardant] retardance to at least one resin comprising adding to said resin a compound [for resins] containing a phosphoric ester represented by the formula (I):



wherein R₁ and R₂, the same or different, are an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 6 and R₃ is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 20.

2. (Amended) A [flame retardant for resins] method as set forth in claim 1,
wherein R₁ and R₂ in the formula (I) are straight-chain or branched alkyl groups having a
carbon number of 1 to 4.

3. (Amended) A [flame retardant for resins] method as set forth in claim 1,
wherein R₃ in the formula (I) is a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having a carbon
number of 1 to 4.

9. (Amended) A [flame retardant for resins] method as set forth in claim 2, wherein R₃ in the formula (I) is a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 4.